

Talking Points:
ATSDR Participation in Dimock residential visits
March 28, 2012

1. Drinking water often contains many naturally occurring chemicals.
2. Just because a chemical is found in your drinking water doesn't mean it will make you sick. We will evaluate the level detected in your water against health based comparison values to understand what these levels mean for you.
 - a. ATSDR is reviewing your drinking water data from a public health perspective, to help you understand if there is a concern for you or your family's health.
3. ATSDR is preparing a health consultation report that will discuss any public health implications of the chemicals detected in the drinking water at Dimock.
4. ATSDR will provide general information from our chemical specific ATSDR TOXFAQs and Toxicological Profiles to address questions related to health concerns associated with chemical exposures.
5. If needed, ATSDR staff can offer consultation to personal healthcare providers regarding drinking water results.

Lithium:

1. Drinking water often contains many naturally occurring chemicals - including lithium.
2. Based on the medical and toxicological information available, lithium concentrations in drinking water below 1,500 ug/L would likely not result in adverse *acute* health effects in children or adults.
3. There is a wealth of literature on therapeutic use of lithium and adverse effects over time at doses that are much higher than the levels found in Dimock private wells. We don't know with certainty what the public health implications are for longer term consumption of drinking water with lithium at 200-500 ug/L. The potential for adverse health effects in sensitive subpopulations is particularly uncertain.
4. Different individuals may be more sensitive to the effects of lithium exposure. Sensitive subpopulations include children, pregnant women, people with significant cardiovascular or renal disease, people with thyroid conditions, people who are severely dehydrated/sodium depleted, and people on certain medications. We recommend that you tell your doctor(s) that lithium was found in your water in case your unique medical history or condition(s) could make you more sensitive.